

From: [Opalski, Dan](#)
To: [Hladick, Christopher](#); [Pirzadeh, Michelle](#); [Baca, Andrew](#)
Subject: FW: The Pebble Tapes and EPA leadership
Date: Thursday, September 24, 2020 11:35:41 AM

From: Wehling, Carrie <Wehling.Carrie@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 1:25 PM
To: Hough, Palmer <Hough.Palmer@epa.gov>; Goodin, John <Goodin.John@epa.gov>; Frazer, Brian <Frazer.Brian@epa.gov>; Kaiser, Russell <Kaiser.Russell@epa.gov>; Neugeboren, Steven <Neugeboren.Steven@epa.gov>; Nalven, Heidi <Nalven.Heidi@epa.gov>; Opalski, Dan <Opalski.Dan@epa.gov>; Steiner-Riley, Cara <Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov>; Brown, Leah <Brown.Leah@epa.gov>; Grandinetti, Cami <Grandinetti.Cami@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: The Pebble Tapes and EPA leadership

Here is the response provided by OPA:

"EPA's Office of General Counsel has made no private assurances to Pebble of any kind. We have committed to following the law and the normal process, which is now in the hands of the Army Corps of Engineers. For all permitting matters, EPA is committed to reinstating normal procedures where each project proponent can submit a permit application, be judged on its own merits, and not be short-circuited by preemptive vetoes, like the one proposed during the prior administration. This normal permitting process leads to better outcomes for both the economy and the environment. In this instance, that process led to the Corps' finding last month that the project as currently proposed would not be permissible under CWA Section 404." – EPA Spox

On background:

EPA has worked closely with the Army Corps of Engineers as a cooperating agency in the Clean Water Act (CWA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes for this project. As a result of this, last month the Corps informed Pebble that its proposed project would result in significant degradation of aquatic resources and, accordingly, the project as currently proposed would not be permissible under CWA Section 404.

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From: Hough, Palmer <[Hough.Palmer@epa.gov](#)>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 11:43 AM
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Subject: The Pebble Tapes and EPA leadership

Folks

The Pebble Tapes mentioned in the NYT's piece from yesterday (see below) can be found here:
<https://eia-global.org/press-releases/20200921-pebble-mine-tapes>

There are a total of 12 tapes posted along with transcripts. They are filled with provocative and disturbing statements by the CEOs of Pebble and NDM about the real size of the mine, their real development plans, water treatment, and their relationships with the Trump Administration, Army, AK District Corps, AK senators, the AK governor, and other AK politicians.

I want to flag **Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

I welcome your thoughts.

-Palmer

From: Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>

Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 7:19 PM

To: Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>; Opalski, Dan <Opalski.Dan@epa.gov>; Baca, Andrew <Baca.Andrew@epa.gov>; Fordham, Tami <Fordham.Tami@epa.gov>; LaCroix, Matthew <LaCroix.Matthew@epa.gov>; Szelag, Matthew <Szelag.Matthew@epa.gov>; McGrath, Patricia <mcgrath.patricia@epa.gov>; Steiner-Riley, Cara <Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov>; Johnson, Patrick <johnson.patrick@epa.gov>; Li, Beverly <Li.Beverly@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Grandinetti, Cami <Grandinetti.Cami@epa.gov>; Bennett, Brittany <bennett.brittany@epa.gov>; Brown, Leah <Brown.Leah.Y@epa.gov>; Eisenberg, Mindy <Eisenberg.Mindy@epa.gov>; Frazer, Brian <Frazer.Brian@epa.gov>; Godsey, Cindi <Godsey.Cindi@epa.gov>; Goodin, John <Goodin.John@epa.gov>; Hough, Palmer

<Hough.Palmer@epa.gov>; Jensen, Amy A. <jensen.amy@epa.gov>; Johnson, Patrick
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<Wehling.Carrie@epa.gov>

Subject: FYI ONLY | Pebble Mine/Bristol Bay news clips (3)

New York Times: [An Alaska Mine Project Might Be Bigger Than Acknowledged](#)

By Henry Fountain

Sept. 21, 2020

Ex. 4 - Copyright

Ex. 4 - Copyright

Ex. 4 - Copyright

Business Wire: [Recorded Conversations with Pebble Mine Executives Reveal Plans to Build Massive 180-Year Mine at the Headwaters of Bristol Bay in Alaska](#)

September 21, 2020

Ex. 4 - Copyright

Ex. 4 - Copyright

Ex. 4 - Copyright

Must Read Alaska: [Special report: Pebble Mine, the people's story spanning more than two decades](#)

By SANDY SZWARC / FOR MUST READ ALASKA

Sept. 19, 2020

Ex. 4 - Copyright

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Ex. 4 - Copyright

Ex. 4 - Copyright

Ex. 4 - Copyright

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Sandy Szwarc, BSN, RN is a researcher and writer on health and science issues for more than 30 years, published in national and regional publications and public policy institutes. Her work focuses

on the scientific process and critical investigations of research and evidence, as well as the belief that people deserve the most credible information available, and that public policies should be based on sound science and reasoned risk-benefit analyses, not politics, junk science, greed or fear. (Pebble Partnership did not contribute to or have any role in this series.)

Suzanne Skadowski

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